385 dollars per tonnes from 410 dollars in January, 1991 and is likely to go down further;

(b) whether Government propose to import Palm oil and if so, the quantity to be imported and when;

(c) what are the reasons that Government have increased the issue price by about 40 per cent; and

(d) whether the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has recently protested against the increase in the price of palm oil being distributed through the Public Distribution System and if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) International prices of RBD Palmolein which averaged during the month of January, 1991 at around US dollar 372 PMT FOB Malaysia had come down during the month of February, 1991 to a level of about US $ 355 PMT FOB. Freight/Insurance from Malaysia/Indonesia averages US $ 32 PMT. However, an increase in the international prices has been observed in the international market of palm oil in the first week of March, 1991.

(b) The quantum of edible oils to be imported is decided from time to time keeping in view of the availability of indigenous oils, release of foreign exchange, prices of imported oils in the international market and other factors relating to import. Considering the sensitive nature of edible oil market, it is not desirable in the public interest to disclose how much quantity and from where and when the purchases/imports would be made.

(c) and (d) The Central Issue Price of imported edible oil for PDS was previously revised on 1-9-1988. Since then international prices of oils and other inputs had increased considerably and it had, therefore, become necessary to increase the issue price from Rs. 13,150 PMT to Rs 16,500 PMT and Rs. 14,500 PMT to Rs. 19,000 PMT in respect of oil supplied in bulk (loose) and in 15 kg. respectively, with effect from 26th January, 1991, to cover break-even cost. It is also considered that a huge gap between the indigenous oil prices and PDS prices for imported oils would lead to diversion of PDS oil through unauthorised channels. The Government of Maharashtra have not favoured the increase in the issue price of imported edible oil on the grounds that this increase at present juncture might lead to price increase of other edible oils in the market. It has not been possible to agree to the views of Maharashtra Government in view of the above reasons.

Introduction of New Railway Services in Rajasthan

*188. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new railway services in the State of Rajasthan during the year 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) if not whether Government propose to introduce new railway routes in that State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A tri-weekly Air-conditioned Express service between Bombay Central and New Delhi is under consideration which will serve the State of Rajasthan.

(c) A new 120 kilometer long broad gauge line between Mathura and Alwar (90 kms. in Rajasthan) is under construction which when completed will open a new route.

चीनी का उत्पादन

*189. श्री रणजीत सिंह :
श्री बलराम सिंह यादव :

क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1990-91 के चीनी पिराई वर्ष की प्रथम तिमाही के दौरान चीनी का उत्पादन

गत वर्ष की इसी अवधि के दौरान हुए चीनी के उत्पादन की तुलना में अधिक रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त पिछले वर्ष की प्रथम तिमाही के दौरान कितनी मात्रा में चीनी का उत्पादन हुआ था और इस वर्ष की प्रथम तिमाही में भी चीनी का कितनी मात्रा में उत्पादन हुआ है ;

(ग) क्या वर्ष 1990-91 के दौरान चीनी के उत्पादन के लिए सरकार द्वारा कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है? और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उत्पादन का क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है और चीनी के उत्पादन के इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए सरकार के अनुमान क्या हैं?

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह) :(क) जी हां ।

(ख) 1990-91 के चालू मौसम के दौरान पहली तिमाही (अक्टूबर-दिसंबर) में चीनी का उत्पादन 30.30 लाख टन था जबकि पिछले मौसम की इसी अवधि के दौरान यह उत्पादन 27.96 लाख टन था ।

(ग) व (ग) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में शर्करा उद्योग के लिए विकास कार्यक्रम तैयार करने हेतु गठित की गई समिति ने चीनी वर्ष 1990-91 के लिए 114.70 लाख टन चीनी उत्पादन का लक्ष्य रखा है । उत्पादन की वर्तमान प्रवृत्ति के आधार पर 1990-91 के चालू मौसम के दौरान चीनी का उत्पादन लगभग 110 लाख टन होने का अनुमान है ।

Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Modasa Railway Line

*190. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on-going work on the proposed Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Modasa railway line has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing the on-going work on the above railway line; and

(c) by when the work would be restarted on the above railway line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Distribution of Coarse Grains through the Public Distribution System

*191. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sell coarse grains through the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Allocation of foodgrains to State Governments/Union Territories for sale through Public Distribution System (PDS) is mainly confined to wheat and rice. Government have recently determined the Central issue price of coarse grains for PDS distribution at Rs. 199/- per quintal for general areas and Rs. 149/- per quintal for ITDP areas. During the current season, till 5-3-1991, a small quantity of about 5000 tonnes of jowar has been procured in the whole country. In view of very small quantities of coarse grains procured and the short shelf-life of coarse grains the procured quantities will be utilised for PDS distribution within the State itself.

मध्य प्रदेश के जनजातिय क्षेत्रों में रेल पथ की कुल लंबाई को बढ़ाना

*192. **श्री शिव प्रसाद चनपरिया** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार मध्य प्रदेश के आदिवासी बहुल क्षेत्रों में रेल पथ की